

February 8, 1974

SENATOR SNYDER: Thank you Madame President, members of the Legislature. I would disagree with a couple of points made by Senator Luedtke. I think we ought to indefinitely postpone LB434. These landing fees, certainly they are charged to the major carriers, but that's just like a tax on the American Trucking Industry. They are paying it because they are the ones who use it. And this is money that is used to build these air strips and to keep them in good repair. They are the users, so why shouldn't they be the ones who are paying for it. And after all, we are not talking about the airlines here, we're talking about the people who use the airlines. Not only the shippers, but the passengers, and I would say this. If we were to give them this tax decrease that they are seeking, would they roll back the price of the airline fare accordingly? Certainly they would not. I don't think I've ever seen a time when a person was given legislation which would reduce their cost. I've never seen a company roll back their prices. It was just like the personal property tax that we had a couple of years ago. I didn't see any stores reduce their prices. They had their inventory cost reduced, they had their overhead reduced, they didn't pass it on to the consumer. Now what makes you think that the major airlines are going to reduce the cost of your ticket. I don't care if you leave from Omaha, Hastings, or Scottsbluff. And again we have had a terrible time here in the Midlands for several years now trying to get better air service. Especially in Omaha. Most especially in Omaha. Now these companies have dragged it on and on and on and on. They don't give an inch. Not a single inch. It's just like taking a course to the Supreme Court. You've got to fight and fight and fight. They'll only give you what you fight for and what you get through the FFA. So again, let's kill LB434, let's keep this coming in to keep, not only our local airports, in good repair but most certainly a growing international airport soon to be at Eppley Field in Omaha.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion? Senator DeCamp is closing.

SENATOR DECAMP: Madame President and members of the Legislature. Just a couple of quick points. This bill might be called the Santa Claus Bill because the only beneficiary really is United Airlines to the tune of \$68,000 or whatever amount it ends up. That's the only beneficiary. Omaha is going to lose tax, out-state airports are going to lose, and as I say, the only purpose of the bill is

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kind of a Christmas gift to United. Now, I have been made aware of a few facts that should clarify this. Omaha Airport doesn't pay the mill levy that we pay outstate that was discussed earlier, because there is a law against it. United Airlines actually imports most of its fuel via pipeline and buy it from United itself. So they buy very little from local business. Very, very little. Now, although airlines pay fuel tax on fuels actually bought in Nebraska, we have a lot of airplanes; United, Frontier, and others land all the time that have enough fuel and they don't buy any fuel here. Don't pay any tax, but they use the airport facilities and our air space, the whole package, there. So I think the bill is